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We solicit news, contributions, opinions and in fact, all matters affecting the race. We will not pay for matter, however, unless it is ordered by us. All matter intended for publication must reach this office by Wednesday of each week to insure insertion in the current issue.

Agents are wanted everywhere. Send or instructions.

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THE STEEL STRIKE.

Providence never creates a vain thing. The great steel strike is not without divine purpose. It is serving a mission, the extent of which is not now perceptible. The fact is being demonstrated that in the hour of trial, the Negro is the safest American. He is always on the side of law and order, and is the handmaiden of the standard interests of the country. The mischief makers, walking delegates, union tyrants, anarchists, socialists and enemies to the peace and dignity of society are invariably white men. When capital is in distress, when corporations in the assertion of their rights as owners, desire to fill contracts for their patrons, and when agitators grasp them by the throat merely because they can, the magnates appeal at once to the Negro for help. The Negro responds to the call, because he needs the bread that labor will bring to himself and loved ones at home. It is not that he wishes to defeat any just demand made by white workmen. It is not that he is the servant of those who would grind the poor to powder. He is not the tool of soulless operators. It is because the white labor organizations refuse to make common cause with him, and decline to give him the opportunity that is rightfully his to provide for his family. It is because his sympathy is alienated by treatment that drives him to the capitalist in self-defense. The corporation offers bread. The labor union turns him away with a stone. Who can blame the Negro for thanking the Almighty for the situation that grants him what the unions deny, and establishes his power as a labor factor among those who think more of quality of service than of the color of the servant. We are glad that the steel strike has taken place despite the loss and suffering it must bring to the business interests of the land. The contention of the workers is poorly founded, and is the outgrowth of the tyranny that is making for the undoing of unionism. Two of the greatest men in

the world are J. Pierpont Morgan and John D. Rockefeller. The Negro is their friend, because they rise above the pettiness of race prejudice, and ask for merit, pure and simple, rewarding it regardless of the hue of skin. When we can rally such forces to us, and can invoke their aid in the matter of protection while enjoying the right to work, we have scored a point that will shake the industrial world from center to circumference. The entering wedge is sinking deep. If the laboring unions are so besotten that they cannot see their folly in ignoring the skilled Negro, they deserve the disaster that is rapidly overtaking them. If we are not permitted to make common cause with the middle classes, we must, in the light of self-preservation, cast our allegiance with the rich.

The steel strike is a boon to the black people. It may mean an alliance of the capitalist and Negro North and South against the reactionary forces that would govern intelligence and wealth by mere numbers and disregard of law. The hand of God is in it all.

Our Methodist denominations appear to be decidedly over-delegated.

THE MOUTH OF TILLMAN.

"Senator"—God save the mark—Tillman has broken loose again, and expelled a lot of "hot air" to a Wisconsin audience. Tillman needs praying for. He deceiveth only himself if he imagined applause for a hypocritical platitudinarian regarded as northern sympathy for lynching. No one indorses the outraging of women of any race, and the South Carolinian begged the question when he appealed for cheers when denouncing assault upon womanly virtue. As a matter of record not one percent of the persons lynched are charged with offenses against women. The "Senator" knows it, and the Wisconsin audience which he addressed knows it too. Tillman is a black-guard—the last discordant shriek of an era of hatred in the Southland. He and his sympathizers are to be pitied. In the regeneration that is to come over Dixie, the wheels of progress will grind Tillmanism to power. The forces of civilization are mounting the saddle.

In antagonizing the teachings of Booker T. Washington, Ben Tillman, arrays himself against the intelligence of his own race throughout the land.

The Grand United Order of the True Reformers is making a record for itself in the financial world that surpasses anything yet attempted by the race. The management of the bank in Richmond, as well as the several branch stores in the different cities, is well nigh perfect. Every one of these has proven a success, and the business done is increasing at a rapid rate. There are now nearly seventeen hundred fountains and within the last twelve months seventeen thousand new members have been added to the brotherhood. What a record! All the departments are in good shape and even with the large army of clerks employed at the headquarters, they are unable to keep up with the rapid growth of the business. The True Reformer has won and is winning a great victory.

The northern advocates of elimination of the Negro in the interest of harmony are meeting with some embarrassments.

THE NEGRO BUSINESS LEAGUE.

The National Business League, which meets at Chicago on the 21st, will be a success. The best element of the merchants, tradesmen, bankers, newspaper people, and all will be there, prepared to do business on business principles. No incendiary speeches, no meaningless resolutions, no points of order, no filibustering for political advantage—the proceedings will be conducted for the promotion of commercial unity, to encourage up-to-date methods on the part of our men in business, and to urge the enlargement of scope of enterprises in which the Negro can and ought to succeed. Booker T. Washington will be on hand to lead, and his efforts will be supplemented by earnest representatives of the race from many states. From this meeting the race will receive a marked impetus in the world of trade. The attendance should be large, and thus indicate that we are keeping up with the spirit of the times in which we live.

The Pan-African Association ought to secure a foothold in this country. We suggest however, where the purposes can be accomplished by existing organizations, there is little need of multiplying names and confusing our friends. The Afro-American must take care of himself, and not leave to others a work he can best do for himself.

The switch of the Ohio democrats against Bryanism and the abandonment of free silver is a splendid justification of Grover Cleveland. After all, wouldn't it be funny if the democrats should remember that Cleveland is the only democrat that has been elected since the war, and should again call upon him to lead them to the pie counter? Why not? Cleveland is the only leader of the party today who enjoys the confidence of the real people of the nation. Is there another run in the distinguished apostle of "innocuous desuetude"?

The race problem is moving northward.

When lynchings grow so bold as to murder women, the time for reaction is at hand.

The appointees for Justice of the Peace must be clean men. The place must not be a political pawn.

It is in order for the alleged "heathen," Mr. Wu, to make a few morn observations upon our "Christian Civilization."

John Temple Graves is trying to disturb the peace that has for years existed between the southern white women and their Negro servants. Graves should be suppressed.

When the Governor of Missouri set apart a day upon which the citizens of that Commonwealth should pray for rain, it is a matter of interest to know if J. Milton Turner lifted up his voice.

After reading of lynchings in Ohio, Pennsylvania and Illinois, the esteemed Washington Post is moved to remark that it might be in order for the South to take steps to protect the Negro from northern mob rule.

That Indiana preacher who so grossly insulted the family of ex Congressman Martin at the funeral of the latter should be kicked out off the pulpit

and ridden out of town on a rail. Such charlatans and sensationalists should be made an example of.

Thomas B. Reed is mentioned as a possibility for the mayoralty of Greater New York. Why not, although a newcomer? Newcomers, with progressive ideas, are the salt of any community. Reed is the one man who could whip Richard Croker to a standstill.

Editor T. Thomas Fortune, of the New York Age, has bought a handsome homestead in picturesque Red Bank, N. J. With Fortune, Bishop Walters and Jesse Lawson located in the state of New Jersey, isn't there danger of "over-leaderizing" that great commonwealth?

The Negro of the South and is beginning to be more concerned about who is to administer the laws in his county than who shall sit in the White House. His next door neighbor's attitude toward him counts for more than resolutions passed by a state hundreds of miles away.

The Negro can afford to follow the wealthy white man in politics and business. When the better class of whites prosper, the working Negro prospers. The white man cannot benefit himself without benefitting the black man who is in his employ, or gathers from the plenty that sound finance brings about.

Mr. Douglass B. McCary, the energetic and resourceful cashier of the Capital Savings Bank, is a happy exemplar of the progressive, high-purposed and capable young Afro-American. His daily life is a symposium of useful and elevating activities. No Washingtonian is held in more universal esteem than Mr. McCary.

It is strange how the average colored man will rush to a newspaper office before the ink on the sheet is dry to make a kick about an adverse criticism—but when he receives a round compliment the editor is obliged to hunt him up to ask him if he saw the article. Such is life. Republics are not the only examples of ingratitude.

All Roads Lead to Chicago, Ill.

The National Negro Business League which is to meet in Chicago next week is attracting attention everywhere. There is no doubt but that our people are aroused in a business way as they have never been before. California has been added to the list of States that will send delegations. Booker T. Washington, the President, is reaching out to every section with his Business League correspondence. He is collecting photographs of Negro business men and women and of their places of business from almost every State. An exhibit will be made of these photographs in Handel Hall, 46 and 48 Randolph street, during the week of the meeting of the League. These photographs are to be arranged by States. Business men and women who have not sent their photographs and photographs of their places of business should forward them to Booker T. Washington, at 119 Dearborn St., Chicago, Ill. The meeting will open at 10 a. m., August 21. The citizens of Chicago have the most complete arrangements for entertaining the delegations and visitors. A banquet has been arranged for Thursday evening, August 22, and on Saturday, August 24, the day following the close of the meeting, the delegates and others will be taken on a boat excursion to Milwaukee and return. This is like Chicago. She knows how to entertain her visitors. Persons desiring information regarding hotel accommodations may write Mr. L. G. Wheeler, 119 Dearborn St., Chicago, Ill.